

Again, I want to thank the United States for Assistant Secretary Daniel Russel's recent testimony in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where he said, and I quote, "we very much welcome and applaud the extraordinary progress that has occurred in cross-strait relations under the Ma administration."

ENHANCING ROC-U.S. ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Trade and investment relations between the ROC and U.S. have always been close. In 2013, Taiwan was the 12th largest trading partner of the U.S. for goods, with 57.7 billion U.S. dollars in two-way trade. The United States is the largest source of foreign direct investment in Taiwan, cumulatively investing 23 billion U.S. dollars as of January 2014.

In March last year, we resumed talks under the 1994 Taiwan-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), and we just successfully concluded the 8th TIFA meetings last week in Washington. I want to praise the hard work of both sides and the positive outcome achieved in the meetings. I hope that we can launch the negotiation of a bilateral investment agreement (BIA) in the near future. A BIA would serve as the beginning of a more robust and comprehensive economic relationship between our two countries.

Taiwan is an important security and economic partner of the U.S., as former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated in 2011. To further demonstrate our commitment to enhancing trade and investment relations with the U.S., Taiwan sent a delegation of 42 business leaders to the SelectUSA Investment Summit last fall. Our delegation was the third largest among over 60 participating countries. We also dispatched a high-level CEO delegation led by former ROC Vice President Vincent Siew to the U.S. last November to promote investment in the U.S. from Taiwan.

ROC'S DETERMINATION TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

To improve Taiwan's competitiveness and avoid the danger of being marginalized, I began pursuing deregulation and market opening immediately after taking office in 2008. The lack of diplomatic ties makes it difficult for us to negotiate free trade agreements (FTAs) with our major trading partners. To break the isolation, we decided to start with mainland China, our largest trading partner since 2003. We successfully concluded the Cross-Straits Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) in 2010. This was followed in 2011 by an investment agreement with Japan, our second largest trading partner and investor. Last year, we signed an economic cooperation agreement (ANZTEC) with New Zealand in July, and an economic partnership agreement (ASTEP) with Singapore in November. We are also in contact with other potential partners in Asia and Europe in the hope of concluding more such accords.

In addition to bilateral trade negotiations, we must also take part in regional arrangements. Taiwan has highly developed markets, and shares Pacific borders with the world's three largest economies—the U.S., mainland China, and Japan. The ASEAN nations are also nearby. Taiwan should not be excluded from the process of economic integration in East Asia.

Given that Taiwan's trade with the 12 members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in 2013 came to nearly 200 billion U.S. dollars and accounted for 34% of Taiwan's total external trade, we believe Taiwan's membership in the TPP would definitely be beneficial not only for Taiwan, but also for all TPP member states.

Moreover, a TPP with Taiwan's membership would not only assure Taiwan's economic security, but would also help strengthen the economic presence of the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific region. In this regard, I am pleased to acknowledge the statements made by Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Kin Moy recently at Congressional hearings. At the hearings, they both stated that the U.S. welcomed Taiwan's interest in the TPP.

In the meantime, Taiwan also trades heavily with the 16 member countries of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). In 2013, our trade volume with RCEP countries came to 325 billion U.S. dollars, or about 57% of Taiwan's total external trade. It is only natural that Taiwan is also seeking membership in the RCEP.

A recent effort by our government for a TPP and RCEP membership is the free economic pilot zones (FEPZs). The goal of the FEPZs is to establish a good environment for doing business, and to pave the way for Taiwan's membership in the TPP and RCEP. The American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei puts out a magazine called Taiwan Business Topics that has commented on our FEPZs. Allow me to quote from the magazine: "The (Taiwan) government's initiative in establishing Free Economic Pilot Zones is an indication of its seriousness in seeking innovative new directions for the Taiwan economy." The new directions that the Chamber is referring to here are liberalization and globalization.

CONCLUSION

Ladies and gentlemen, Taiwan and the U.S. are determined to maintain peace and stability in East Asia, and we are working together to do so. If actions speak louder than words, then the U.S. has certainly spoken loudly and forcefully in support of our century-long partnership. We continue to be grateful for America's political, economic, and security support.

And, as I have noted, with admission to the TPP and RCEP a top priority for my administration, I hope, on this 35th anniversary of the TRA, that the United States will join us in this effort. I do believe we can approach this goal as the beginning of a bright new chapter in the Taiwan-U.S. partnership. The sky is the limit, so let's soar on the wings of this unique partnership!

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention. I now look forward to your questions.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW MCKINNEY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Matthew McKinney of Brown Winick in Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of com-

munity involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Matthew in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. McKinney for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Matthew on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF MARIE WOLBACH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman and devoted leader in our community who has inspired numerous girls to strive for success and excel in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics STEM. Marie Wolbach cares deeply about ensuring that girls have the educational tools they need, and through the sheer force of her knowledge, determination, advocacy, participation, and persuasive talents, she created a unique educational opportunity for them.

Marie Wolbach is a retired medical sociologist and recognizes the critical need for girls to learn about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. She founded Tech Trek in 1998 with the help of an American Association of University Women (AAUW) Community Action Grant. Tech Trek is a weeklong science, technology, engineering, and mathematics summer camp for underserved rising eighth-grade girls, offering them an opportunity to enter a world that empowers and encourages them to think about themselves as future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and computer specialists. Since Tech Trek began on the campus of Stanford University, it has grown to ten camps on eight college campuses in California, and in 2013, it expanded nationally to seven other states where it has already positively impacted the lives of the girls who attended. Because of Marie Wolbach's vision, Tech Trek graduates are breaking barriers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, with surveys demonstrating that 96 percent of their former participants are now in college, and 54 percent are STEM majors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to this extraordinary woman as she is honored with the "Unsung Heroes" Jefferson Award. KPIX 5 nominated her for this prestigious award which she has earned and richly deserves. Marie Wolbach's unparalleled vision for a better future for girls strengthens our nation immeasurably and makes her a national treasure. It is a high privilege to represent Marie Wolbach, and call her my friend.